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UNCLAS BUCHAREST 001011

SIPDIS

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STATE DEPT FOR EUR/NCE - WILLIAM SILKWORTH

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [MARR](#) [AF](#) [IZ](#) [RO](#)

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN SOLDIER KIA IN AFGHANISTAN; FOUR
ROMANIANS, ONE AFGHAN WOUNDED

REF: BUCHAREST 704

1. (SBU) Romanian Defense Ministry (MOD) sources confirm that a Romanian soldier was killed in action and four Romanian soldiers and an Afghan interpreter were wounded in Afghanistan June 20 at approximately 0300 local time. MOD sources advise that one of the wounded Romanian soldiers is in critical condition and that two of the Romanian soldiers lost legs in the incident. According to preliminary reports, a Romanian patrol was 20 kilometers from Kandahar returning to base when the lead vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device (IED). The MOD is withholding names of the WIA pending notification of the next of kin, but an MOD press release confirms the dead soldier was Corporal Ionel Gheorghita Dragusanu.

2. (SBU) The Ambassador will issue a statement of condolences June 20. So far, media reaction has been limited to a report of the incident, without editorial commentary. Romania's last combat fatality was in Iraq in April (Ref).
TAUBMAN